

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, BQG

SUBJECT: LORENZ/DRENCKMANN TRIAL IN BERLIN: ASSIGNMENT
OF FEDERAL PROSECUTION OFFICIALS

REF: 76 BONN 11478; 76 BONN 12111; 76 USBERLIN 2003;
BONN 12426; BONN 12441; STATE 177700

1. FRENCH EMBOFF MADE DEMARCHE AUGUST 2 AT OFFICE
DIRECTOR LEVEL IN DEPT CONCERNING MANNER OF FRG
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HANDLING OF FEDERAL PROSECUTION OF LORENZ KIDNAPPERS
IN BERLIN. HE EXPRESSED GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH
RECENT PUBLICITY CONCERNING THE CASE. HE STATED THAT
FRG HAD FAILED TO CONSULT ADEQUATELY WITH THE ALLIES, WHO
HAD BEEN COMPELLED TO GET THEIR INFORMATION FROM THE
PRESS. HE IN ESSENCE CHARGED THE FRG WITH BAD FAITH
AND FAILING TO LIVE UP TO THE COMMITMENTS IN THE ALLIED

"NON-PAPER" TO WHICH BONN HAD AGREED (76 BONN 12111). EMBOFF SOUGHT USG SUPPORT FOR FRENCH VIEW THAT PROSECUTION SHOULD BE HANDLED BY OFFICIALS ALREADY PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE FEDERAL PROSECUTORS OFFICE IN BERLIN. (HOWEVER IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER FRENCH GOVT MEANT EXCLUSIVELY SUCH PERSONNEL, HE REPLIED "NO, PRINCIPALLY SUCH PERSONNEL"). HE SAID FRENCH WERE MAKING A PARALLEL APPROACH TO HMG IN LONDON, SEEKING BRITISH SUPPORT FOR TRIPARTITE DEMARCHE TO THIS EFFECT TO THE FRG.

2. WE INFORMED EMBOFF OF WHAT WE THOUGHT HAD BEEN ASSUMPTION OF ALLIED REPS LAST YEAR (1976 REFTELS), NAMELY THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO AUGMENT STAFF OF BERLIN FEDERAL PROSECUTORS OFFICE FROM KARLSRUHE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE NECESSARY EXPERTISE. WE SAID OUR UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN THAT THESE OFFICIALS WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE BERLIN OFFICE AND SUBORDINATE TO THE PERMANENT HEAD OF THAT OFFICE. HOWEVER, WE SAID WE WOULD CONSIDER THE FRENCH CONCERNS, AND SEEK TO ESTABLISH WHETHER IN FACT SUCH ADDITIONAL EXPERTISE FROM KARLSRUHE WAS NECESSARY FOR THE TRIAL TO GO FORWARD IN BERLIN.

3. FOR BONN: US BONN GROUP REP SHOULD SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM FRG ON WHAT EXPERTISE THREE OFFICIALS
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FROM KARLSRUHE HAVE WHICH NOT ALREADY AVAILABLE TO
FEDERAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE IN BERLIN (BONN 12441).

4. FOR USBERLIN: REQUEST MISSION PROVIDE SUMMARY OF SIZE, STAFFING AND FUNCTIONS OF FEDERAL PROSECUTORS OFFICE IN BERLIN, AND UPDATED ASSESSMENT OF OFFICE'S CAPABILITY TO HANDLE PROSECUTION OF THIS CASE (76 USBERLIN 2003). CHRISTOPHER

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